



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING




JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

MEMORANDUM

To: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
High School Principals
High School Counselors

From: Michael P. Flanagan, Superintendent of Public Schools 

Date: March 4, 2009

Subject: **CLARIFICATION ON** ACT Qualifying Score to Establish Eligibility for Installment Payments of the Michigan Promise Scholarship

It has come to our attention that my previous communication (dated 2/27/2009) about qualifying for the Michigan Promise Scholarship installment payments could be interpreted incorrectly. To clarify, 12th graders **cannot** repeat the ACT on day one of the Michigan Merit Exam (MME) administration to qualify. Students must pay for their own ACT and take it on a national ACT test date at a national ACT test site. The previous communication amended to reflect this is presented below:

+++++ AMENDED COMMUNICATION FROM 2/27/2009 +++++

A change in state law last year provides seniors with a second opportunity to be eligible for installment payments for the Michigan Promise Scholarship. Seniors can take only the college entrance portion of the MME (which is at this time the ACT) to qualify for installment payments under the following circumstances:

- They took the complete MME previously
- They received valid scores in reading, writing, math, science, and social studies
- They scored below proficient in one of those subjects.
- The ACT score to be considered for installment payments must be from...
 - An ACT test taken after all three previous requirements were met.
 - An ACT test taken on a national test date at a national test site
- The ACT score to be considered may not come from the day one MME administration

Note: Students who have already taken the MME and received valid scores in all five subjects are not eligible to participate in any portion of the MME, including the ACT test administered on day one of the MME.

The law stipulates that for these situations, the State Superintendent set a cut score on the college entrance portion of the MME (ACT) that will qualify such students for installment payments. To identify a potential cut score, Michigan Department of Education staff used three different methods of analysis, all of which arrived at approximately the same cut score of 21.

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • (517) 373-3324

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Therefore, *I have set an ACT Composite score of 21 to be the qualifying score* to be used under the circumstances described above.

Complete information can be found by going to www.michigan.gov/mme and clicking the link about taking the national ACT as an option.

For the information of those interested in how this qualifying score was determined, the three different methods of analysis were the following:

1. Identifying the ACT composite score that would have qualified the same number of students as qualified based on the MME.
2. Identifying the average ACT composite score of students who scored barely proficient in all five MME subjects.
3. Regressing the ACT composite score on all five MME subject scores and obtaining the predicted ACT composite score for a student who is barely proficient on all five MME subjects.

Questions can be directed to Joseph Martineau, Director of the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability, at 517-373-0048 or email to martineauj@michigan.gov.